



The Borden Government

The

Homesteader's Friend



Under the late Laurier Government the homesteaders in Western Canada were compelled to live under conditions and subject to regulations which made their lot a hard one. It is greatly to the credit of the present administration that immediately upon assuming office every possible effort was made to relieve the western settler from the onerous burdens imposed by predecessors in office. What has been performed in this respect fully entitles the Borden Government to be called.

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The following comparison of the acts of the two administrations bears this out in a most convincing manner.

Under Liberal Rule

In 1908 the Liberal Government put into force the Pre-emption Act entitling a homesteader in certain areas to take up a quarter section adjoining his homestead as a pre-emption, subject to certain duties to be performed and payments to be made. These were as follows:—

- (1) Residing for six months in each of six years on either his homestead or pre-emption.
- (2) Erecting a dwelling house on the homestead or pre-emption.
- (3) Cultivating eighty acres on homestead or pre-emption.

(4) Paying for pre-emption at the rate of \$3.00 per acre, to be made as follows,—one third of purchase price to be paid three years after date of entry and balance in five equal annual instalments, with interest at five per cent. per annum from date of pre-emption entry.

Later on an Order-in-Council was passed and came into effect on the 1st of February, 1909, **compelling all entrants who filed on land after that date to erect a house of the value of not less than three hundred dollars.**

The Liberal Party remained in power for three years after passing the Pre-emption Act in 1908, and beyond putting the additional burdensome obligation of erecting a Three Hundred Dollar House upon their land no important changes relieving the homesteaders of their duties were made by the Liberal Government.

Conservative Rule Brought Relief

In 1911 the Conservative Government came into power in Canada. Read what they have done for the homesteader since.

They had only been in power a few months when word went out to every land office that **the erection of a Three Hundred Dollar House was no longer required**, only in the case of purchased homesteads. Following this the following important changes have been made:—

(1) A three year term for a homestead and pre-emption, or six years at the option of entrant.

(2) First three years' interest eliminated. Also interest is now,—

(a) Only charged on overdue payments, and not as formerly on the whole balance not paid.

(b) If full period is taken to prove up in, \$120.00 is saved by each holder of a pre-emption.

(c) If a person proves up in three years, \$72.00 is saved.

(d) Interest already paid is credited as principal.

In a Rural Municipality it is estimated that over \$50,000 will be saved to the residents by the passing of this amendment.

NOTE:—Benefit to the homesteader or pre-empter under the new regulations abrogating the interest clause.

Under the old regulations interest on purchase price of pre-emption began to accrue three years before the homesteader was in a position to undertake the duties on the pre-emption.

Under the new regulations any interest that may have been paid will be applied in reducing the principal... Interest will not begin to accumulate unless the homesteader runs behind in his payments, in other words, he pays interest on overdue installments only and not on the whole of the principal.

The following figures show the respective standings of the old and the new regulations based on the presumption of a homestead and pre-emption entry in the year 1908.

The New Way.		The Old Way.	
	Principal. Interest.	Principal.	Interest
1908			\$24.00
1909			24.00
1910			24.00
1911	\$160.00	\$160.00	16.00
1912	64.00	64.00	12.80
1913	64.00	64.00	9.60
1914	64.00	64.00	6.40
1915	64.00	64.00	3.20
1916	64.00	64.00	
	<u>\$480.00</u>	<u>\$480.00</u>	<u>\$120.00 - \$600.00</u>

A clear gain of \$120.00 to the settler who is unable to pay cash for his pre-emption.

(3) Homesteaders are allowed to prove up with stock when land is rough and stony and unfit for cultivation. Quite a large acreage of land in the pre-emption area is being homesteaded under this clause.

(4) Living with relatives in this vicinity has also been extended to include step-father, step-mother, etc., father-in-law, etc., and also half-brother and half-sister.

(5) When residence has been performed in vicinity, a dwelling house on homestead is not required.

(6) May live on wife's deeded land to prove up on homestead.

(7) Homestead Inspectors' work entirely under the instructions of Agents.

(8) Homestead Inspectors not to accept applications for patents unless on special instructions from Agents.

(9) Inspectors have had instructions in practically all land districts to take applications for patents from those who are a long distance from land office, and in this way a saving of probably \$30.00 to \$50.00 has been saved each application.

(10) Where land has been held under reservation or entry and becomes available for posting, adjoining homesteaders get fifteen days prior right for a pre-emption, providing they do not already hold one.

In addition to these important changes several others of minor importance have been put into operation.

Relief for Crop Failure Sufferers

On account of the drought and hard times in several land districts, orders went out on 29th of July, 1914, to protect all entries in those districts unconditionally, and to accept no applications for cancellation until on or after the 1st of April, 1915.

It was also necessary to see that the homesteaders in those affected areas were not in want of food or fuel, so they have been divided into districts and relief supervisors appointed to see they got all the provisions, fuel and feed for pigs and chickens that they require, also feed oats for horses to do Fall work.

The Government has also undertaken to supply all seed grain that is necessary to seed this large area, and it is estimated that it will take nearly one and one-half million bushels of wheat alone to do this, besides oats, flax and potatoes.

An Order-in-Council has recently been passed granting all holders of entries in the Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Maple Creek, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge land districts, who have been forced to leave their land for the purpose of securing employment, the privilege of counting as performance of residence duties, any portion of the year 1914, during which they were employed elsewhere.

This privilege is limited to cases of entrants who are actually in destitute circumstances owing to crop failure, and further that it applies only to entries granted prior to the 1st of August, 1914.

The sum of One Million Dollars was set aside by the Government for the express purpose of providing seed grain for the settlers in the crop failure district. A further sum of \$150,000 was also granted toward the maintenance of these settlers during the winter months. Taking into consideration all measures of relief the Government is spending in the neighborhood of \$1,800,000 in this work.

The Government took particular care that the seed grain purchased for these needy settlers should be of the very best quality. For this purpose the services of two of the foremost seedsmen in Western Canada were secured.

Every possible precaution has been taken by the Government to relieve the settlers of unnecessary hardship and to prepare them for next year's work. Actual practical assistance has been given; no empty promises of consideration.

Upon reading the above it can easily be seen that the Borden Government is

The Homesteader's Friend.

More has been done for the homesteader since 1911 than during all the years of the Laurier regime.

